


Reactions to the New Circulation Desk @ YOUR LIBRARY™

The new circulation desk was installed in mid-November. The old 30’ long circulation desk was replaced with a more modern unit. The old desk served the library and its patrons well for 19 years. It is estimated that about 15 million items passed across the desk’s Formica top since the Main Library opened, but, being installed when the library still had a card catalog and books were checked out by hand, it was not computer friendly. The new desk has lower counter sections that provide easier access for children and the physically challenged. It also has return slots, so patrons no longer have to leave the materials they are returning on top of the desk. In addition to being more customer-friendly, the desk is also more efficient for the staff, providing a larger work area and more room for supply storage. It was decided that replacing the desk would be more sensible than remodeling it.

The 8-year-old daughter of one of the staff members reacted to the new desk in this way: When she saw the new desk, she said, “Wrong library! Sorry! Don’t recognize it!” and walked out. She insisted she was in the wrong library until she visited the adult oversize books and saw a familiar staff member.

We hope that all of you will realize you’re in the right place. Come by to check out the new look along with a book!



LEMONY SNICKET’S TERRIBLE TRIVIA CONTEST

WIN A *SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS* POSTER!

Youth Services is offering Lemony Snicket fans a chance to win a framed *Series of Unfortunate Events* poster.


This contest is not for the fortunate kind, but rather the unfortunate kind ...in keeping with the spirit!

Unfortunately, there are 10 questions. Unfortunately, they are not easy ...in keeping with the spirit.


Rules are rules! Unfortunately, you must be 18 or younger. Entry must be returned by January 30, 2004. Unfortunately, late entries will not be accepted. First entry drawn with the most correct answers is the winner. Unfortunately, the rest are losers! Winner will be announced February 2. Unfortunately, Youth Services will have to relinquish possession of the poster.

So come by Youth Services and pick up your unfortunate entry. If you have any questions please ask us. Unfortunately, we won’t give you the answers to the contest!

~Lorry Risinger, Youth Services Coordinator 455-6313




LYNCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY



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Lynchburg, Virginia 24501

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LYNCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY



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Book Discussions@ YOUR LIBRARY™

The library’s adult book discussion group has chosen the books it will discuss for the first six months of 2004. You are welcome to join us in the library’s Community Room on the following dates. All discussions take place on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM.

Jan. 21	<i>Walking across Egypt</i> by Clyde Edgerton	May 19	<i>Patches on the Same Quilt</i> by Becky Mushko – Ms. Mushko will visit the group and participate in the discussion.
Feb. 18	<i>All Over but the Shoutin’</i> by Rick Bragg	June 16	(this date is subject to change) – <i>Atonement</i> by Ian McEwan
March 17	<i>My Antonia</i> by Willa Cather		
April 21	<i>The Ballad of Frankie Silver</i> by Sharyn McCrumb (This will be part of the Lynchburg Reads program.)		

We have some interesting discussions planned for the second half of 2004 as well. More on that in a few months.

Please join us! Feel free to bring your lunch with you. Dessert and beverages are served. For more information, call 455-6310. *Candice Michalik*

Retirements @ YOUR LIBRARY™

Two of the main library’s employees retired at the end of December. Doris Booker has been the acquisitions clerk at the library for 15 years. Her responsibilities included ordering the materials for both branches of the library. When you check out a book, tape, CD, or video, chances are that Doris ordered it. Last year she ordered approximately 7,000 items for the library. Doris lives in Lynchburg with her husband, Gerald, who is already retired. We wish both Doris and Gerald a happy and relaxing retirement. We will miss her as an employee and also as a friend. Stuart Byczynski was responsible for implementing and supervising the computer classes in the Gates Computer Lab. He taught most of the classes, with some assistance from very capable volunteers, notably Elaine Jackson and Anita Kumar. In his nearly two years as computer lab instructor, over 3000 students were taught the basics of computer use, from beginning classes such as Keyboard and Mouse and Windows Operations, to more advanced classes such as Advanced Word and Excel. We all wish Stuart the best of luck and feel fortunate to have worked with him.

Library is Saddened by Loss of a Special Volunteer

Mr. Lewis Brown, a volunteer at the Lynchburg Public Library for several years, was the victim of a fatal traffic accident in Santee, South Carolina on November 2. Since he began volunteering in 1997, Lewis gave over 4,000 hours. He was responsible for cleaning videos at the main library, a task he undertook cheerfully and efficiently. His cheerful greetings and sunny smile will be missed by the staff and the other volunteers.

MAIN LIBRARY

2315 Memorial Ave.
Lynchburg, VA 24501

Circulation, Renewals,
Returns, Library Cards
455-6300

Reference and
Information
455-6310

Youth Services
455-6320

Administration and
Technical Services
455-6330

Volunteer Program
455-6330

LIBRARY HOURS

Main
Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.
9:30 AM-5:30 PM

Tues., Thurs.
9:30 AM-9:00 PM

Downtown Branch
Mon.– Fri.
9:30 AM-5:30 PM

CLOSED
Monday, January 19
Martin Luther King Day

Monday, February 16
President's Day

DOWNTOWN BRANCH
AND LAW LIBRARY
900 Church Street
Lynchburg, VA 24504
455-3820

www.lynchburgva.gov/publiclibrary

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Staff Spotlight

@ YOUR LIBRARY™

Dobie Johnson

Dobie Johnson, assistant circulation supervisor, recently celebrated her 25th anniversary with the library.

Dobie attended Dunbar High School, where she was a majorette and baton twirler, before transferring to E.C. Glass. After graduating from E.C. Glass High School, Dobie earned a BA in elementary education from Lynchburg College. Her first library job came while she was a student at Dunbar. She also worked at the Lynchburg College Library while she was a student there. Before coming to the Lynchburg Public Library, she worked at Lynchburg Community Action Group, her first job, the Planning District and the YWCA.

Danielle Steel, John Grisham, and E. Lynn Harris are some of Dobie's favorite authors, but she says she likes to read a little bit of everything.

Other library staff members describe Dobie as someone who gets along well with patrons and who is always smiling. Patrons have described her as friendly and helpful. She admits that she enjoys people.

A native of Lynchburg, Dobie has one son, Makis, who is 13. Makis has already begun to follow in his mother's footsteps. He can be found at the main library as a volunteer several hours a week.

When not working at the library, Dobie enjoys baking and watching basketball and football.

The library is fortunate to have such a competent, friendly and well-liked employee as Dobie Johnson and doubly fortunate that she has decided to stay here for 25 years.



Youth Services Lynchburg Public Library Winter/Spring 2004

Weekly Programs

Registration begins Tuesday, January 20.
Registration must be done in person.



20-minute programs designed especially for 2-year-old listeners and their parents.
February 2 – May 11
Mondays at 10:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.
Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.

Tales for Twos

A parent or caregiver must attend.
Siblings are welcome.

Preschool Storytimes

30-minute programs designed especially for children ages 3-5.

February 3 - May 12
Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.
Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.



While parents do not attend storytime with preschoolers, we rely on them to be our partners and ask that they remain in the library during programs.

Monthly Programs

Drop-in. Registration not required.

Born to Read Storytimes

Lapsit programs of rhymes, stories, songs, and activities designed for children under the age of two.
Second Friday of each month. 10:30 a.m.

January 9	April 9
February 13	May 14
March 12	June 11



Holiday Activities

Activities for children of all ages!

We Love Dr. Seuss Party: Saturday, February 14, 2-4 p.m.
Leap Year (Frog) Craft Workshop: Saturday, March 6, 2-4 p.m.
Springtime Craft Workshop: Wednesday, April 14, 2-4 p.m.
Mother's Day Craft Workshop: Saturday, May 8, 2-4 p.m.



Visit us at 2315 Memorial Avenue, Lynchburg, Virginia 24501
or call us at (434) 455-6320
www.lynchburgva.gov/publiclibrary

Video Changes @ YOUR LIBRARY™

The checkout period for videos has been changed. From now on, all videos will check out for one week instead of five days. This should be more convenient for many library patrons.

Overdue Fines @ YOUR LIBRARY™

Just a reminder that on days Lynchburg City schools are closed due to inclement weather, there are no library fines charged on overdue materials.

Governor's Proposed Budget & Public Libraries

The Governor's proposed 2005-06 budget continues public library funding at current levels. While thankful he did not recommend any cuts, everyone knows the final document will be very different from his proposals. If, by some miracle, state funding is not cut, we will still see a loss of \$5,000 due to the simple recalculation of the funding formula; a best case scenario is that we will receive \$184,000, down from \$280,000 just two years ago. About 90% of state funds are used for materials. The city's fiscal situation cannot be accurately assessed until the state budget is finalized, but the City Manager has recently used the word "grim" to describe the outlook for 2005. On January 7 the City Manager ordered a hard freeze in hiring; the library had three vacant positions - the acquisitions clerk, the Gates Computer Lab coordinator, and a shelver. Across the departments, staff members are filling in to get the daily work done. Thanks to their strong spirit of good-natured cooperation, the work will be done.

~Lynn Dodge, Director

Online Book Club @ YOUR LIBRARY™



The library's online book club has seen an increase in membership since it went from one club to eleven. There's a book club for everyone's taste. To sign up, all you need is an email address. You may sign up online by going to the library's home page at www.lynchburgva.gov/publiclibrary and clicking on the Online Book Club icon. Or you may call us at 847-1566 or stop in at the reference desk. It's free and it will expose you to books you might not have read. Each day, Monday through Friday, you will receive in your email an excerpt from that week's chosen book. The excerpt takes about five minutes to read.

HERE ARE OUR FIGURES:

NonFiction Club - 80	Horror Club - 2
Audio Club - 6	Mystery Club - 36
Business Club - 3	PrePub Club - 35
Fiction Club - 40	Romance Club - 2
Good News Club - 3	Science Fiction Club - 5
Teen Club - 4	

2004 City Holidays
Both Libraries will be closed
on the following days in
2004

Jan. 1 - New Year's Day
Jan. 19 - Martin Luther King Day
Feb. 16 - President's Day
May 31 - Memorial Day
July 5 - Independence Day
Sept. 6 - Labor Day
Nov. 25 - Thanksgiving
Nov. 26 - Thanksgiving
Dec. 23 - Christmas
Dec. 24 - Christmas

New Phone Numbers @ YOUR LIBRARY™

Both libraries have just received new telephones. The new system will cut the monthly line charges in half and provide a common platform across city organizations. The old numbers will automatically forward callers to the new numbers throughout 2004.

The new numbers are as follows:

Main Library 455-6300
Administration 455-6330
Adult Services 455-6310
Youth Services 455-6320
Downtown Branch 455-3820



Cell Phone Reminder

@ YOUR LIBRARY™

Cell phones can be a great convenience but are disruptive to other library patrons. The Lynchburg Public Library code of conduct prohibits their use within the library. We ask that you turn off cell phones while in the library. Thank you for your cooperation.